

The Oregonian

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proved within the past few years. Advancement does not so much depend upon prowess in rough-and-tumble fighting as it does upon the color which makes the soldier inconspicuous in the field in a modern product of the laboratory. The outlook for the United States to excel in all these lines is made brighter by the fact that cheap labor is no longer a factor in chemical production. It is estimated by an authority on the subject that of the \$250,000,000 worth of chemicals imported in 1915, not more than 4 per cent represented labor value.

IN THE WAR AT LAST.

The casualty lists grow steadily from day to day, and the war is at last a terrible presence in American homes. We have seen it once in the early days when the war was still regarded as an incident in the daily life of America—wait until the lists of dead and wounded come in; and then make war on the living.

COARSE.

The flippancy with which Commissioner Kellaher has taken up the comparatively inconsequential duty of purchasing a few hundred bathing suits for use in city swimming pools does not add lustre to an administration supposed to be conducted by high-grade, high-minded business men.

WRITING WITHOUT INFORMATION.

In the course of an article in the Tax Liberator in which Mr. C. E. Spence attempts to tell what he knows of the Non-Partisan League of North Dakota we find this paragraph:

FACT VERSUS FICTION IN THE WAR.

An article by Wythe Williams in Collier's Weekly, in which the French offensive on the Meuse is discussed, has been brought to our attention by Charles H. Grasty, Paris correspondent of the New York Times, a crushing reply in which every statement of fact made by Mr. Williams is flatly contradicted. Mr. Williams said in substance that the French offensive was begun in concert with the British; that it had every prospect of success in driving the Germans back to the Meuse; that it was stopped in response to a protest from a party of French politicians at the headquarters against the slaughter of troops, and in violation of an agreement with the British. Mr. Grasty has evidently had access to the official records of the French government and had information at first hand from French officials.

MEN FOR THE MERCHANT MARINE.

Announcement that Government schools for the training of young men for the American merchant marine on the Pacific Coast are poorly attended means one of two things: Either the young men of the West prefer to go to the fighting branches of the Army and Navy, or they are not alive to a splendid new opportunity. It is known that they are not lacking in the spirit of adventure.

THE PROBLEM OF TOO MANY LAWYERS.

In the problem of too many lawyers in Oregon was set forth valiantly by the people of North Dakota recently, and they not only elected a Legislature of farmers and others not lawyers, but rejected the candidates for the Supreme Bench who were lawyers. It is said that a worthy farmer who was thinking of running for the Legislature at the state capital on a Sunday, was and was annoyed to find that Sunday closing of newspapers, cigar stores and other pernicious industries of Satan was a sad reality. The new justice was a contractor, a carpenter, and he wanted a cigar—or perhaps it was a pipe. The tobaccoist on demand refused to take the chance of arrest and fine. But the jurist then and there showed his superlative fitness for judicial office by declaring the law unconstitutional for the reason that there is still in some communities an idea that a candidate for a judgeship ought to have a thorough equipment of legal learning and experience.

AN IDEAL OF A LEGISLATURE.

An ideal of a legislature is a body of men—and women—from all walks of life, with an aptitude for public affairs, with an intelligent interest in the general welfare, with no thought of promoting unwholly individual or class advantage, with a zeal for efficiency and economy, with due perception, instinctive or acquired, of the schemes of humbugs, demagogues, agitators and profiteers. We should like to see such a Legislature.

second German lines. In contradiction the Times dispatch says: The question of political interference never arose, because it was obvious by the first night that the rupture was impossible. The attack was stopped in the sense that a major portion of the German line was destroyed. The French did not take the first and second German lines. Along two-thirds of the front of attack there took only the first line, demolished by artillery preparation, and was checked by the German fire from the second line, whose strength had been little impaired. On April 17 the French were stopped deliberately by himself.

Unofficial estimates of French losses by M. Godart were declared to be "an exaggeration of over 70 per cent," but Mr. Grasty says "The official figures were not understood." He charges a concrete wall. The French did not take the first and second German lines. Along two-thirds of the front of attack there took only the first line, demolished by artillery preparation, and was checked by the German fire from the second line, whose strength had been little impaired. On April 17 the French were stopped deliberately by himself.

So far from M. Painleve having ordered on April 23 that "the entire offensive be immediately stopped," on April 30 began the attacks on Mont Meuse, which continued successfully for six days, and on May 4 began the attacks on Caronne and the Chemin des Dames, which also succeeded.

The statement that the German army was ordered "to retreat immediately for a quick retreat to the line of the River Meuse" is denounced as "pure fantasy."

It is denied that Mr. Lloyd George created a scene in his remarks to the French government after the attack was stopped. The conference between French and British did not deal with persistence in the attack, but with readjustment of plans in view of its failure.

Painleve did not order the offensive to cease. Haig and the British government had been assured that it would continue, and the offensive did not cease. He did not say in the Chamber of Deputies on July 7 that "henceforth the French armies would be content to hold their positions."

So far from the Germans finding a complete success in their attack of April 18 "that panic existed in France," Mr. Grasty says that, "no matter what French paper you see, the operations were everywhere regarded until the end of April as a brilliant victory."

The conclusions of the court-martial were published in substance in Collier's and Mangin, for "the result of the inquiry was that Nivelle, instead of being generalissimo, now holds a secondary post in Africa, and General Mangin commands an army no longer."

To clinch the Times article, M. Painleve published in Collier's "the most indignant protest" against Mr. Williams' article, saying that "in it there is not one statement regarding me, there is not one figure, which is not contrary to the truth," and promising proof from official documents.

The Oregonian publishes this synopsis of what appears to be a complete refutation of Mr. Williams' story of the French offensive. It is essential to success of the United States in the war that there shall be close co-operation with our allies, which requires a complete and sympathetic understanding.

The Oregonian is pleased to welcome Bruce Dennis back to the newspaper file. He has brought the La Grande Observer from Mr. Leiter and associates. Mr. Dennis possesses initiative, force and ability, and is back in his former field of endeavor to make good on the promises of the Evening Observer. He will.

An enlisted man, professing to be a Socialist, who refuses to obey orders and gets into trouble to twenty-five years at hard labor, is a bigger fool than the general run of every man who is not a martyr to any cause.

The women's committee of the Nebraska Council of Defense objects to Eastern college girls for farm work. No reason is stated, but it can be guessed. The men's heads must not be turned.

Strikers who interfere with progress of war work should be put into Class I regardless, and this country may come to that course long before peace is declared.

Most of the hundred killed in the air raid on Paris Tuesday night were women and children. By and by American airmen will lead the way to Berlin.

If St. Patrick could have had a vision of the "favors" that nowadays commemorate his birth, he would have put a curse on more things than snakes.

Enlistment of a shipbuilding army must soon be followed by that of a farming army if the allies are not soon to be reduced to eating grass.

The Macedonian Cry. By Everett Earle Stannard. We had trodden the paths of peace so long. Adown the beautiful, happy years, That the cry of Europe's pain and wrong Was like a far-heard ghostly song. Wafted from alien spheres.

A watchman cried from the battered wall, "Come over and help us, come, come!" This night the war was the mystic call. And some of us heeded it not at all. And some said, "France, you may stand or fall; Our hearts are sealed and dumb."

"Cease, be silent and go your ways, You little peoples in farther lands, Go down with your cries to the voiceless days, As for us we will sigh, and then give praise That America still stands."

And as we walked on the world's high road, In our priestly purple and selfish pride, We thought it a part of our priestly code To avert our gaze while the blood-stream flowed From the man who was beaten by staff and goad, We passed on the other side.

So long we had lived for ourselves alone, We gave little thought to our brother men, The love in our hearts was turned to stone, We thought of no woes but woes of our own. Thank God, we shall now for the past atone; We are part of the world again.

And never so long as the earth shall stand, Shall we in the priestly way pass by, Refusing brother the helping hand, When the tyrant tramples a neutral land. We have come at last to understand The Macedonian cry.

Waterfront Citizens Erects It in One Day. By C. Pears It Downs. PORTLAND, March 12.—(To the Editor.)—The complete erection of the liberty temple in one day is not the only instance of that kind in the history of the city. No doubt there are a few old-time residents of Portland who can recall that a building was erected about the year 1850 on the northeast corner of Front and Morrison streets (site of the old Edmond Hotel) in its entirety in one day.

The reason for this, as I recollect, was that George W. Vaughn (a former Mayor), owning the property on the west side of the street, laid claim to the waterfront directly opposite. At that time the streets led to Washington street to the south had no buildings on it. It coming to the knowledge of the city officials that Mr. Vaughn was erecting a building, they prepared to put together in a hurried manner. One morning it was hauled to the place and with a large force of mechanics he proceeded to erect the building. Toward evening it was entirely completed, to the astonishment of a large crowd of spectators and dismay of the authorities.

The following day after a consultation of the city officials the City Marshal was authorized to procure necessary materials and labor under Pompey, and with axes and other appliances a force of men began the destruction of the building. The debris was carried off to the plaza opposite the Courthouse. Law suit was instituted by Mr. Vaughn against the city and I believe carried to the United States Supreme Court. Undoubtedly it must have been decided in his favor, for later buildings were erected all along the levee side of the street.

Thinking that you are a very interesting to old-timers, particularly to the members of the Lang Syne Society, I would like to reprint the particulars of the matter as reported in your paper at that time. SIMON HARRIS.

Old Mother Nature's stubborn as a mule. Acts just the same on genius, sage and fool. You may have an ill—or make it—If you cure, you'll never make it. Ere you're quite able to shake it, For she never breaks a rule.

Old Mother Nature laughs at your wry face, Goes right on working on the human race. It's no use to try to cheat her, And you'll profit if you treat her, With the very best of grace! GRACE E. HALL.

Leans for Actual Farmers. PORTLAND, March 12.—(To the Editor.)—Would a widow be able to carry a Federal loan on land that has a mortgage on it? Said land is in a small town in the Valley. Amount of land, seven acres; amount wanted to pay off mortgage, \$450; taxes on land over \$300. She does not live on land, as she could not work it, but rents it out. SUBSCRIBER.

Another Wish. Since wishes are in order, I'd like to be a fleet aviator. Of fifty thousand aeroplanes All finished and complete.

With bombs and guns I'd harass the Hun, By night as well as day, Till back across the Rhine they'd go, And be content to stay. E. K. S.

Wearing of Service Pin. CLOVERDALE, Or., Feb. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Am I allowed to have a star in a service pin for a brother-in-law who is in the Army? A READER.

There is no fixed rule or regulation. No one can stop your wearing it. MINIMUM WAGE IN WASHINGTON. PORTLAND, March 12.—(To the Editor.)—Please publish what is the minimum wage that can be paid to waitresses in the state of Washington. WAITRESS.

Ten dollars a week, meals not included. Senator's Church Affiliation. PORTLAND, March 12.—(To the Editor.)—Would like to know the church affiliation of Senator Charles L. McNary. A READER. He is a Baptist. They Are Exempt. PORTLAND, March 12.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly let me know if men of draft age, and in Class I, are exempted from military service while employed for the Emergency Fleet Corporation. MACHINIST.

CAESAR'S CLAIM TO GREATNESS.

Reasons Why He Should Be Regarded as a Leading Figure in History. PORTLAND, March 12.—(To the Editor.)—I read with great interest your article in the Sunday Oregonian on the world's great men. Leaving out literature and religion, I would like to say something on Caesar's claim to be considered the greatest man in a material sense, that ever lived. Most men called great have had little influence outside the countries of their birth. George Washington is honored, even revered, in almost every country, but it must be confessed that his influence has been slight outside our United States. The same may be said of Napoleon in France, of Peter the Great in Russia, of Frederick the Great in Prussia and Germany, but what of Caesar? The jurisprudence of the world is founded on the laws codified under his direction. The calendar year instituted by him is still used by almost all the world for almost 2000 years with one small change.

Now as to his professional qualifications, the greatest of his school boy knows he was an author and every man with some classical learning knows that as a prose writer he was at least the equal of any of his time. His great speech of Caesar's has come down to us but we have the word of Cicero, that as a prose writer he was no better judge, that as an orator, he was the first rank.

To compare Generals of different periods of time, is a thankless task, as the conditions are so different. Most, I believe, Hannibal is considered the greatest general of ancient times, because his victories were gained against the troops of at least equal quality, and often superior numbers, but he was defeated in the end, and if Rome and Roman literature had survived, we would know little of Hannibal as we do of the great generals of Semiramis and Rameses. He was but a fleeting shadow on the quivering sands of the desert, never suffered defeat and conquered most of the then known world, but except when he destroyed the Phoenicians, his opponents were Asiatic little better than slaves and armed in very inferior fashion to the Greeks; at any rate the very small local forces of the Macedonians at Granicus and Arba, show that genius was scarcely necessary to gain the victory. It is true that Alexander destroyed the Persian empire and so changed the world's history for never again could it be a factor in Europe, but the march of the Greeks from Babylon to the shores of the Indian Ocean, which he effected, was crushed at the first touch. Ten years after his death Alexander, for all his greatness and glory, left scarcely a ripple on the troubled waters of the world.

Caesar also never was defeated in battle and he also practiced the art of the whole known world. His first great victories were gained against nations then called barbarians, probably armed in very inferior fashion. Why is it that at the beginning of the war when the "Star-Spangled Banner" was played everyone stood attention, women forgot such things as veils, hats and put on two rows of buttons in silence (or sang) all through the song? We are still at war; it has become part of us; everyone has someone dear to him on the other side, and fighting is preparing to, but the time taken to stand with respectful attention seems too precious. Hats are put on or unbuttoned, and a few audible whispers from our women, "Oh, dear, I am so tired of this; let's go out before it is finished," etc., are heard.

Please do not allow the men to think that we are not fighting for the concentration. That is what it amounts to—it is thoughtless. We all have brains and we are all heart and soul in this war. Let us know it by courtesy to our flag and song. C. B. OAKTREE.

THE HUN. Search our tongue for stronger terms Applied to fendish deeds of hell, Just now, we see, we need to learn Some stronger epithets to tell Of ancient savagery outdone In this war. Let us know it by courtesy of the educated Hun. Of Belgium's fate—the story's old—Of Mark, vile deeds we cannot tell, But future ages shall be told How heroes fought those "imps of hell." How they blocked the devilish purpose Of the craving, grasping Hun.

How valiant France will did her part, With steel for steel and shot for shot, Made rough and rocky from the star "The Paris road for 'Me and Got," While "scraps of paper"—canceled ones—Shocked the world with the perfidy That had slumbered in the Huns.

I thought I'd add a stanza each For England, Italy and U. S., With tongue or pen that I can trust To describe the time when the grins "Gainst a rotting, craven principles That had slumbered in the Hun. T. P. KENDALL, 434 East Eleventh street.

THE CALL. Oh, it isn't the time for tears, boys, And you've got to be a man, But it's just the time for common sense And the fighting blood that wins. Oh, I know it's sudden and rough, boys, And I know it's serious, too, But think of the country you're going to save And what it will mean to you.

Why, you're all dressed up in your suits, boys, You've got the good old American stuff; Just over in France where they're fighting hard You'll find diamonds in the rough. It's the youth you've got that's great, And your plucky, clean, strong will, You've endurance, too, and I'll bet on you When there's a place to fill. Oh, I love you all, my brave lads, And I'd like to clasp each hand, So here's Godspeed when our shores you leave For France with our flag to stand. ELIZABETH A. FLAYEL.

No New Registration Rules. ASTORIA, Or., March 11.—(To the Editor.)—If a man has become 21 years wishes to enlist in the Army, is it necessary to go to the next registration office or will he be given a chance to enlist after he has been registered? A READER.

No new registration has yet been ordered and no regulations have been fixed, so we cannot answer your questions. FREE SERVICE AND INFOR- MATION. The Oregonian has established a bureau of information and service at Washington City for the benefit of its readers. No charge and no obligation. Address: Oregonian Information Bureau, Washington, D. C. Do NOT write to The Oregonian at Portland.

In Other Days.

Twenty-Five Years Ago. From The Oregonian, March 13, 1893. Superintendent Gardner, of the Boys' & Girls' Aid Society, places three wards of the institution in good homes at The Dalles.

Directors summarily disband Harmonic Society, but arrangements are made for continuing rehearsals under the direction of Professor Buck, as conductor. W. A. Storey leaves for Chicago as delegate from the Oregon Sportsmen's Association to the National Convention of Sportsmen.

George T. Myers, president Oregon World's Fair Commission, goes to Chicago to make necessary contracts with exhibitors, return to the beginning of the Oregon exhibit. W. H. Eldridge assigned task of interesting manufacturers of state in assembling exhibit.

Governor Penoyer and State Treasurer Metcalf start on tour of state for inspection of sites offered by The Dalles, Hesperia, Pendleton, La Grande, Union and Baker for the Eastern Oregon branch insane asylum for which the Legislature appropriated \$165,000.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian, March 13, 1868. New Hampshire—Union party carries state election by 3000 majority. Victory under conditions as to the franchise in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois and the redemption of New York and California. The result is also considered a vote on the impeachment of Andrew Johnson.

New York—Washington dispatch says Reconstruction Committee will report bill for admission of the State of Alabama under a constitution recently voted by the people of that territory. C. M. Cartwright reports successful operation of mill at Salem for the manufacture of linseed oil and kindred products, and that plant adequate to supply demands of state.

Tulatin River is so badly obstructed with drift that river steamer service from Portland to Great Grove is necessarily abandoned. Republican State Convention of Pennsylvania declares unanimously for Grant for President.

United States Senate tables a memorial objecting to the admission of Colorado as a state. RESPECT FOR ANTHEM DECLINING. Woman Protests Against Growing Indifference to National Air.

PORTLAND, March 12.—(To the Editor.)—Since your editorial page seems to be the Mecca for the complaints of the general public, please add my bit. Why is it that at the beginning of the war when the "Star-Spangled Banner" was played everyone stood attention, women forgot such things as veils, hats and put on two rows of buttons in silence (or sang) all through the song? We are still at war; it has become part of us; everyone has someone dear to him on the other side, and fighting is preparing to, but the time taken to stand with respectful attention seems too precious. Hats are put on or unbuttoned, and a few audible whispers from our women, "Oh, dear, I am so tired of this; let's go out before it is finished," etc., are heard.

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ON SUNDAY. The term was applied to a statute lately repealed which prohibited the opening of certain places of business on Sunday.